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## Visual Basic Language

## Re: Open an existing Excel File

Thread Starter: **KingyOwl** Started: **21 Apr 2006 1:31 PM UTC** Replies: **4**[MSDN Forums](#) » [Visual Basic](#) » [Visual Basic Language](#) » [Re: Open an existing Excel File](#) [« Previous Thread](#) [Next Thread »](#)

21 Apr 2006, 1:31 PM UTC

**KingyOwl**

Posts 9

**Open an existing Excel File** Was this post helpful?  

Hi, I have recently installed Microsoft Visual Basic 2005 Express Edition and would like to open an existing Excel file from a command button within the application I am making.

Having scanned through the help and forum sites i have made the following code which does not provide any errors, however when I click the command button the mouse cursor changes to the 'Busy' cursor then nothing happens.

Here is my code:

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles Button1.Click
```

```
Dim xlTmp As Microsoft.Office.Interop.Excel.Application
```

```
xlTmp = New Microsoft.Office.Interop.Excel.Application
```

```
xlTmp.Workbooks.Open("c:\documents and settings\andy\desktop\test.xls")
```

```
End Sub
```

I have added the Microsft Excell Object library reference to my project. Any help in correcting the code would be much appreciated.

Thanks in anticipation,  
Andy

[Report Abuse](#) 21 Apr 2006, 4:36 PM UTC**rkimble**

Posts 36

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Andy,

In order to see the instance of **Excel** that you created, you must make it visible.  
Make the last line of code:


```
xlTmp.Visible = True
```

Also, you should capture and maintain a reference to the **Workbook** after opening.  
If you do not explicitly close the **Workbook** at some point, that instance of **Excel** will still be running after your application exits.

---

Reed Kimble[Report Abuse](#) 21 Apr 2006, 4:43 PM UTC**KingyOwl**

Posts 9


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Thanks alot for your reply. The file now opens correctly. I don't understand how I explicitly close the workbook in the code afterwards tho, sorry but I am quite new at this!

Regards, Andy

[Report Abuse](#) 21 Apr 2006, 4:54 PM UTC**rkimble**

Posts 36

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That's ok, we were all new at one point or another ☺

You should create an instance of an **Excel Workbook** at the class level (that is, outside of your **Button\_Click** event) and then set that instance equal to the **Workbook** object you opened. Then, when your application ends, you can also ensure that **Excel** closes.

Now, since you are displaying the **Excel** application it's really not that big of a deal - the user can just close **Excel** themselves. But just for your own reference, if you ever decide to automate **Excel** behind the scenes, it is good to know that **Excel** won't close itself just because the app that started it has ended (you could quickly find many many instances of **Excel** running in the Task Manager that have no visible UI).

Here is a simple expansion of your code to give an example:

```
Dim wb As Microsoft.Office.Interop.Excel.Workbook
```

```
Private Sub Button1_Click(ByVal sender As
System.Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs)
Handles Button1.Click

    Dim xlTmp As
Microsoft.Office.Interop.Excel.Application

    xlTmp = New
Microsoft.Office.Interop.Excel.Application

    wb = xlTmp.Workbooks.Open("test.xls")

    xlTmp.Visible = True

End Sub

Private Sub Form1_Closing(ByVal sender As Object,
ByVal e As System.ComponentModel.CancelEventArgs)
Handles MyBase.Closing


    wb.Close()

End Sub
```

Hope that helps!

Reed Kimble

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 21 Apr 2006, 4:56 PM UTC

**KingOwl**

Posts 9

**Re: Open an existing Excel File**



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Ok, I understand now, many thanks.

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